

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
May 9, 2007

Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Evelyn Larsen, Kay Costello and William Lenz

Members absent: Edward Bolstad and Tim Kennedy

Staff present: Mike Roth, Don Davison and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Larsen invited the public to speak during a period of open forum. Open Forum is limited to one half-hour. No person may speak more than 5 minutes or more than once.

Diane Brostrom, Grand Marais Area Tourism Association Director, cautioned the public in repeating hearsay about the Ham Lake Fire. Many businesses rely on tourism business during this season and are losing business even though they are not in the fire area. The Visitor Information Center is receiving daily updates from the US Forest Service. She distributed a list of information phone numbers for fire and evacuee information.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; April 25, 2007, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Max Wahlers is requesting a variance to allow splitting his lot in the R-1 zone into two parcels with a depth of 117 feet, three feet short of the required 120 feet. The newly created lots would otherwise meet zoning requirements. The property is located on the east side of Harbor View Trail, PID 80-020-3330. A public hearing was held May 3, 2007; there were no verbal or written comments from the public. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the variance by a 5-0 vote.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Max Wahlers Variance. Approved unanimously.

Thomas Kurshner is requesting a conditional use permit to establish an accessory residential unit in his commercial building in the C-1 zone. A public hearing was held May 3, 2007. There were no verbal or written comments received from the public. However, it was unclear if the planning commission understood that the conditional use was for the first and second floors of the building.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Larsen to table this request until the May 30, 2007, meeting. Approved unanimously.

John McClure is requesting a conditional use permit to conduct his insurance office as a home based business on his property located in the R-1 residential zone located at Lots 19-20, Block 24, Village Plat. The council recently passed and published a new ordinance that would allow this use.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Larsen to approve the John McClure Conditional Use Permit. Approved unanimously.

The City of Grand Marais is a part of the Cook County Emergency Operations Plan that is currently being put to the test. The plan has been developed over several years. The City Administrator has been involved in discussions in the development of the plan and recommends its approval.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Cook County Emergency Operations Plan. Approved unanimously.

The City of Grand Marais Drug and Alcohol Policy and Minnesota State Law require that employees that operate certain vehicles be required to be a part of a consortium for random testing. Our safety consultant, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, has a program for random testing that the city should participate in.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Costello to approve the Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium Substance Abuse Prevention Program Consortium Member Agreement. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Larsen's Report:

- 1) Has received a few calls requesting that the pool and ballfields stay at the Recreation Park.
- 2) The Sewer Department has received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Award for outstanding performance in wastewater treatment.
- 3) Attended a Ham Lake Fire Meeting on the Gunflint Trail. The mood was somber and the information was the same as was being published.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board will discuss the future Capital Improvement needs at their next worksession.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Library Board will hold a public meeting on June 5, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at the Grand Marais Public Library regarding future expansion plans.
- 2) The Joint Recreation Board is seeking input about the board's role and potential financial sources. The county has committed \$17,000 to do geotech surveys for development and the work has begun. A lot of people think it is a good idea to consolidate the pool and recreation facilities in one area.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The auditors are here conducting the annual financial audit. They will have a formal report prepared in the near future.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.